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Presented by

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE and
N.B.C. NETWORK Coast to Coast

"Consumer Time"

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SATURDAYS

11:15 A.M. EST

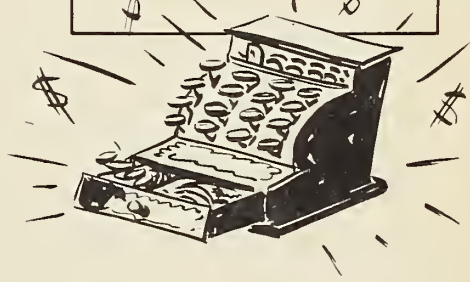
10:15 A.M. CST

9:15 A.M. MST

8:15 A.M. PST

THE MENACE OF MILDEW

JULY 26, 1947



1. ANNCR: Today...the problem of mildew and how to fight it....on
2. SOUND: CASH REGISTER RINGS...MONEY IN TILL
3. ANNCR: **CONSUMER TIME!**
4. SOUND: CASH REGISTER...CLOSE DRAWER
5. ANNCR: During the next fifteen minutes the National Broadcasting Company and its affiliated independent stations make their facilities available for the presentation of CONSUMER TIME by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.
6. MUSIC: BRIDGE
7. FREYMAN: Today our subject is mildew. And if we don't know all there is to know about mildew...there's one thing we do know. Damp weather and mildew are fast friends. And this has been a very damp season. Let's tune in on the U. S. Weather Bureau's teletype and find out just how damp.
8. SOUND: TELETYPE CLICKING IN BG

9. FREYMAN: "Moderate to heavy precipitation over most of the country this season". Precipitation....that's rain. "Severe overflow in the Mississippi Valley from Keokuk, Iowa, to below Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Severe overflow on the Missouri River from Nebraska City to the mouth of the stream. Floods set a new high water mark at several stations on the lower Missouri. The Mississippi at St. Louis rose more than a foot higher than the 1944 flood. Severe overflow was reported on the Raccoon and upper Des Moines River in Iowa. Moderate flooding in the Grand River in Missouri....and the Kansas River. Local flash floods were reported in the Harlan-Pineville area in Kentucky....in the headwaters of the Cumberland River."
10. SOUND: ~~TELETYPE~~ ALONE....FADES OUT DURING NEXT SPEECH
11. FREYMAN: There we have a Weather Bureau's eye-view of heavy rains and flood...followed by mildew....a problem that's with us every year...but especially aggravated by the weather this summer. Later in today's program you're going to meet a guest who has some expert advice on fighting mildew. But first, let's look in on some old friends...Alice and Albert Jones. Today they are very busy....opening their summer cottage.
12. MUSIC: IN THE GOOD OLD SUMMER TIME
13. ALICE: Oh Albert.....this basement smells just awful.....so musty.
14. ALBERT: Now now, Alice. How would you smell if you had been shut up all winter?
15. ALICE: Albert!
16. ALBERT: I mean...I've opened the windows, pet. Some fresh air will help. Now...what do you want me to do?

17. ALICE: Help me get some of the things out of this trunk and take them upstairs. Let's see....we've got to get the shower curtain up right away. It should be right on top. (VERY DISMAYED)
Oh Albert.....
18. ALBERT: What did I do now?
19. ALICE: Just look at this shower curtain. It's all stained. It looks terrible.
20. ALBERT: That's mold, dear. Mildew.
21. ALICE: Don't be ridiculous, Albert.. ..after I packed it away so carefully in the trunk. I wonder if anything else is....
oh dear....my summer bedspread....and the towels. This is terrible.
22. ALBERT: Ugh.....awful smelling, aren't they.
23. ALICE: This whole trunk full of stuff...all spoiled.
24. ALBERT: All mildewed.
25. ALICE: Do you really think that's what it is? Here in our own cellar?
26. ALBERT: Of course. From my vast military experience, I know mildew is most troublesome in tropical and subtropical climates...but it may be a problem as far north as Alaska.
27. ALICE: Albert! Stop talking like an encyclopedia...and do something!
28. MUSIC: IN THE GOOD OLD SUMMER TIME.....MAKE IT SAD

29. FREYMAN: So Alice has met up with mildew.....and like many other people, she wonders just what mildew is. Well...it's a mold growth caused by a plant fungus, really. That sounds harmless enough, doesn't it? The thing that makes molds different from other plants is that they don't have any chlorophyll....that green stuff. And they grow on anything from which they can get enough food...on cellulose products like cotton...linen... wood...and paper. On protein substances like silk...leather ...and wool. All these molds need are some muggy summer weather...and a damp, warm, poorly aired, poorly lighted place. Alice provided the ideal conditions. Under a magnifying glass ...this mold that causes mildew is a delicate thread-like plant growth....very pretty. But this isn't consoling Alice right now.
30. ALICE: Albert! Do something!
31. ALBERT: Well, pet...there isn't very much I can do with those clothes. I suggest you go through the trunk and salvage anything that isn't too badly mildewed.
32. ALICE: But we can't use them like this.
33. ALBERT: No...but you can try washing them in good soapy water...and dry them in the sun. That might help.
34. ALICE: You really think so? What if it doesn't work?
35. ALBERT: Well.....my mother....
36. ALICE: Albert!
37. ALBERT: Now now...don't get excited, pet. I was just going to say that Mother used to moisten mildew stains with lemon juice and salt... and spread the clothes out in the sun to bleach.
38. ALICE: Well.....I'll try it. Oh dear...I never expected I'd have a load of washing to do today. Albert...what are you going to do to help get this place unmildewed?

39. ALBERT: I'm going to trot right down to the drug store.
40. ALICE: What for?
41. ALBERT: For some chloride of lime.....
42. ALICE: Albert...you'll blow us all up. What is that stuff anyway?
43. ALBERT: Steady now, pet, steady. It's a perfectly safe chemical. I'm going to sprinkle it over the basement floor and let it stay until all the mustiness disappears. After that, I'll sweep it up, and scrub the floor. Then our basement should be okay.... because that chloride of lime is a good disinfectant and deodorant. But we're not storing any more stuff down in the basement even then.....too risky.
44. ALICE: Well...all right. If you think that's the proper thing to do. Albert, you don't suppose the stuff I've got stored in the upstairs closets will be mildewed too? Oh Albert!
45. ALBERT: Shouldn't be surprised. It's been pretty damp around here lately. Tell you what I'll do though. I'll get some calcium chloride too while I'm at the drugstore. That's a chemical that takes up moisture...supposed to be good for dampness in closets or storage space.
46. ALICE: What is it...a liquid?
47. ALBERT: No no. It comes in a solid hunk. You're supposed to put it in an open container in the closet. Then when it turns liquidyou know it's time to get some fresh stuff.
48. ALICE: Well, I'll be glad when we've done all that...and then I can lead a normal life again without worrying about mildew.
49. ALBERT: It may not be as simple as that, my love. If this is going to be such a damp summer...we've got to be especially careful.
50. ALICE: Oh dear, Albert. What horrible thing have you thought of now?

51. ALBERT: I just thought we'd better be extra careful this summer. You'd better not sprinkle any more clothes for ironing than you think you can do at one time. And don't let damp towels or wet bathing suits lie around. Stretch out the wet shower curtain ...and....
52. ALICE: Why Albert! All those things you do.....except the ironing. So don't yell at me.
53. ALBERT: (BUILD) Who's yelling?
54. ALICE: You are.
55. ALBERT: I am not.
56. ALICE: (MENACINGLY) Yes you are.....Albert Jones.
57. ALBERT: (MEEKLY) Yes dear.
58. ALICE: I think you'd better go to the store now...and get those chemicals you were talking about. We're going to get rid of this mildew if you have to work at it all night.
59. MUSIC: IN THE GOOD OLD SUMMER TIME.....END ON A HUMOROUS NOTE
60. FREYMAN: While Alice and Albert are trying to get rid of mildew let's get some expert advice on the subject. Our guest's nineteen years with the United States Department of Agriculture have been spent doing research on textile problems like starches and other finishes.....water repellant fabrics...methods' of removing stains from fabrics....and of course the problem of mildew. So now CONSUMER TIME friends, meet Margaret Furry of the U. S. Department of Agriculture 's Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics. Miss Furry, I understand a lot of research work is being done on mildew proofing fabrics.

61. FURRY: Yes, Mrs. Freyman, that's true. Besides the Bureaus in the Department of Agriculture who are working on it, there are commercial laboratories who are doing some fine work on mildewproofing. And the Armed Forces are continuing their work begun during the war.
62. FREYMAN: Yes...I know the military had to get some pretty quick work done on uniforms and other equipment...so they wouldn't go to pieces with mildew in the tropics. Have any of these processes been adapted for the use of consumers, Miss Furry?
63. FURRY: Yes....there are shower curtains, awnings, and other articles that are treated against mildew before they are placed on the market. And there are also special products you can buy at drug and department stores to protect things against mildew. I'd advise you not to use these products on clothing though, because they may irritate your skin.
64. FREYMAN: That is something to remember. And now...do you have any special tips on the mildew problem for us, Miss Furry?
65. FURRY: I think the most important thing to keep in mind is that it's easier and better to prevent mildew than it is to cure it.
66. FREYMAN: The old ounce of prevention is still worth a pound of cure.
67. FURRY: Absolutely. And prevention in this case means removing the cause of dampness...then thoroughly air and dry out the room or articles affected.
68. FREYMAN: Then our friend Albert Jones had the right idea. He started by airing out the basement and the house.
69. FURRY: I hope Albert was able to take advantage of a cool night to freshen the air in the entire house. When mildew is a problem, you want to ventilate the house only when the air outside is cooler and drier than it is inside. Then as the cool air is warmed inside the house, it absorbs rather than gives up moisture.

70. FREYMAN: How about those chemicals Albert was going to use...calcium chloride for the closets and chloride of lime for the basement floor. Are they okay?
71. FURRY: Very good. And his talk about never letting damp clothes lie around is very good advice.
72. FREYMAN: ~~Mmm~~ hmn. But what if mildew does attack some clothes or towels or something. Should we rely on just soap and water? I can testify that it doesn't always work.
73. FURRY: Soap and water are pretty reliable if you get after the mildew right away. First I'd suggest you take off any surface growth of mildew by brushing the article out-of-doors. That will help prevent scattering the mildew spores in the house. Then sun and air the fabric thoroughly.
74. FREYMAN: And then comes the soap and water?
75. FURRY: That's right. And if that doesn't do the trick, as Albert suggested, moisten the stain with lemon juice and salt and spread the cloth in the sun to bleach. Then rinse thoroughly and dry. And remember to use this treatment with care on colored goods. Incidentally, sodium perborate is another safe bleach to use on washable cloth.
76. FREYMAN: Sodium perborate. I'll have to remember that. How do you use it?
77. FURRY: Sponge the mildew spot with a solution made with one tablespoon sodium perborate to a pint of luke warm water...
78. FREYMAN: Wait a minute....let's make sure everybody got that. One tablespoon sodium perborate to a pint of luke warm water.
79. FURRY: Or you can sprinkle the powder directly on the dampened stain. Let it stand for a moment or two...then rinse well. Better test this bleach on a seam or hem of a colored garment first to be sure it doesn't change the color.



80. FREYMAN: Miss Furry.....you know how soiled dishcloths and washcloths dry so slowly in the summer that they get that sour and kind of musty smell? Well, I wondered if that's the beginning of mildew.
81. FURRY: Yes...that's a sign of mold growth. So it's a good idea to boil the cloths for a few minutes in water and baking soda. That will sweeten them.
82. FREYMAN: Good. How much baking soda to how much water?
83. FURRY: About two teaspoons baking soda to a quart of water. Then launder them as usual.
84. FREYMAN: Well, Miss Furry, we've been talking about getting rid of mildew while the stain is still fresh. That's the best way. But suppose you don't discover mildew until the stain is pretty old?
85. FURRY: If the mold has eaten into the fibers of the cloth, there isn't anything you can do. But if the fiber's just badly discolored, then the best thing is Javelle water. Dip old stains on undyed cotton, linen, or rayon in Javelle water or other chlorine bleach for no longer than one minute. Then dip the garment into a weak vinegar solution to stop the action of the chlorine.
86. FREYMAN: And what would you call a weak vinegar solution?
87. FURRY: Two tablespoons vinegar to a cup of water. After you're through with the Javelle water and the vinegar solution...rinse well with plain water. And Mrs. Freyman, I hope all your listeners remember never to use chlorine bleach on silk or wool. The results would be disastrous.
88. FREYMAN: Miss Furry,...is there anything homemakers can do after persistent summer rains, to get rid of mildew on floors and woodwork?

89. FURRY: Yes. They can try wiping the mildewed floors and woodwork with a cloth dipped in water to which a little kerosene has been added. If that doesn't do the trick, I'm afraid they'll have to wash the wood with warm water and soapsuds and dry thoroughly. Then they 'll have to go to work with a paint cleaner to remove the mildew stains.
90. FREYMAN: How about mildew on wallpaper? If the floors are affected...I should think the wallpaper would be too.
91. FURRY: Yes, I should think so. Well...the first thing is to brush any dry, loose mold from the wallpaper with a clean, soft cloth. Next, wipe it lightly with a cloth rung out of diluted alcohol-- one cup of denatured alcohol to one cup water. Then dry. If you have to, heat the room for several hours a day. But let the plaster dry slowly to prevent it from cracking.
92. FREYMAN: Thank you, Miss Margaret Furry of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. And now, let's sum up. Here's a little routine we've worked up to help all of us on CONSUMER TIME remember how to treat mildew.
93. ALICE: (ACCENTUATE THE RYTHM) Mildew is a mold...we are told. So treat it when it's fresh...and not when it's old.
94. ALBERT: Soap and water...is the simplest way...or lemon juice and salt on a sunny day.
95. FREYMAN: Sodium perborate is good too. A tablespoon in water is the way to do.
96. ALICE: (PAUSE) If a mildew stain is older...then you have to treat it bolder.
97. FREYMAN: Javelle 's a bleach that's stronger....dip a minute never longer.
98. ALBERT: Vinegar and water next....to neutralize...says the text.



99. FREYMAN: (PAUSE) If mildew's gone.. and got your wood...kerosene in water may do some good.
100. ALBERT: But if you need....something more....try a paint cleaner from the hardware store.
101. ALICE: (PAUSE) If there's mildew in the closet...mildew on the shelfget some calcium chloride for yourself.
102. ALBERT: Put it in a saucer, and shut the door. When it's turned to liquid...then get some more.
103. FREYMAN: (PAUSE) For a musty basement try chloride of lime. Leave it on the floor for a good long time.
104. ALICE: Then sweep up the stuff, and scrub the floor. Say goodbye to mildew for evermore.
105. FREYMAN: (PAUSE) Now hope you remember all this stuff.....
106. ALBERT: 'Cause mildew is a bother...
107. ALICE: Sure enough!
108. MUSIC: BRIDGE
109. ANNCR: Now what's on next week's CONSUMER TIME, Mrs. Freyman?
110. FREYMAN: It's a program called "This is the Way We Wash Our Clothes."
Studies have been made of how women do wash their clothes...
and on the basis of those studies, the home management experts
have been able to figure out easier and quicker ways of doing it.
111. ANNCR: I'm sure our listeners would like to hear about that.
112. FREYMAN: I am too. So we're going to tell them...and pass along some practical suggestions for inexpensive, easily constructed or installed equipment to cut down the number of motions in washing.

113. ANNCR: Then next week....."This is the Way We Wash Our Clothes"...on
114. SOUND: CASH REGISTER
115. ANNCR: CONSUMER TIME !
116. SOUND: CASH REGISTER....CLOSE DRAWER
117. ANNCR: CONSUMER TIME written by Eleanor Miller, was directed today by
 . It is presented by the U. S. Department of
Agriculture, through the facilities of the National
Broadcasting Company and its affiliated independent stations.
It comes to you from Washington, D. C.
- This is NBC, the National Broadcasting Company.

